



Roan Plateau

Including former Naval Oil Shale Reserves No. 1 and 3

DRAFT Resource Management Plan Amendment (RMPA) and
Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Facts

Roan Plateau Planning Area (RPPA) (federal and private)	127,007 acres
BLM managed federal lands in RPPA	73,602 acres
BLM lands on top of the Plateau	34,758 acres
BLM lands below the rim (including cliffs)	38,844 acres
Private surface/private mineral lands in RPPA (no BLM jurisdiction in land use decisions)	53,405 acres (41%)
Private natural gas wells currently on top of the Roan Plateau (private surface/private mineral)	7
BLM lands in RPPA already leased for mineral development	18,670 acres (25%)
Estimated Recoverable Federal natural gas resource in the RPPA	
On top of the Plateau	4.2 TCF*
Below the rim (including cliffs)	4.7 TCF*
Estimated federal and private recoverable natural gas resource in RPPA	15.4 TCF*
Natural gas estimated to be produced by wells on federal lands under DRAFT alternatives	983 BCF** - 1,819 BCF**
Miles of motorized routes on federal land on top of the Plateau	157
Miles of motorized routes on federal land below the rim (including cliffs)	102
*Trillion Cubic Feet	
** Billion Cubic Feet	

- The Roan Plateau rises 3,000 feet northwest of the Town of Rifle, Colo., in the mineral-rich Uinta-Piceance Basin (geological area).
- The Roan Plateau has long been recognized for its mineral resources, with 56,238 acres set aside as the Naval Oil Shale Reserve until 1997, when an Act of Congress transferred management to the BLM, Glenwood Springs Field Office.
- The Roan Plateau planning area and vicinity is estimated to contain some of Colorado's richest natural gas resources.
 - Nearby drilling for gas has proven to have one of Colorado's highest success rates of 97 percent.
 - Federal lands on top of the Plateau are estimated to contain 47 percent of the recoverable natural gas resource.
 - Recoverable natural gas resource in the planning area is estimated at 15.4 TCF (both federal and private lands).
- The top of the Roan Plateau has remained relatively undeveloped and undisturbed.
 - No threatened or endangered species have been found on top of the Roan Plateau.
 - The Roan Plateau supports a number of rare plants and plant communities.
 - The Parachute Penstemon, a candidate species, would be protected in the plan.
 - Riparian systems have benefited from the isolation caused by waterfalls on the plateau, including one of the purest populations of Colorado River cutthroat trout.
- The Act that transferred management of the plateau to the BLM also directs the BLM to enter into leases for the purpose of mineral exploration, development and production under applicable federal law, including the Mineral Leasing Act (MLA) and Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA).
- The current planning area encompasses 127,007 acres of public and private lands. The planning area reflects the BLM policy of including adjacent private lands that may be affected by public land management decisions.

- The BLM Wilderness inventory process found the Northeast Cliffs and Southeast Cliffs units and the East Fork unit to have wilderness character.
- Management alternatives provide varying approaches to protecting ecological values.
- BLM's initial scoping process included six preliminary alternative approaches to managing the area.
 - The question of mineral development and surface disturbance on top of the plateau is of most interest to the public.
 - More than 11,000 comments were received, many via form email.
- The towns of Rifle and Parachute as well as Garfield and Rio Blanco counties and the State of Colorado Department of Natural Resources are cooperators on the plan.
- BLM planning regulations require that a preferred alternative be identified in the draft EIS. The RMPA/EIS as well as the preferred alternative could be changed through the comment process.
- The public is encouraged to comment on the draft management plan, in keeping with BLM policies that encourage community involvement in planning decisions.

Additional info can be found at www.co.blm.gov/gsra/gshome.htm